

Wolverines in St. Paul this past Saturday and, wow, it was an amazing game.

Over 19,000 fans packed the Xcel Energy Center to watch a nail-biter, really, is what it was. Goaltenders Shawn Hunwick of Michigan and UMD's Kenny Reiter kept the game close, neither allowing a goal in the third period and sending the game into overtime.

Stuck at 2-2 Bulldog Travis Oleksuk gathered the puck behind the Michigan goal just 3 minutes into the extra period. With the puck on his backhand, Oleksuk slid a pass in front of the net to hard-charging teammate Kyle Schmidt, Hermantown, MN.

Kyle, only 10 days removed from hand surgery, buried the puck from just outside the crease. In a moment of pure exuberance, he skated to the half-line and dove onto his back, performing what I believe was a snow angel, as he slid on the ice. It was something to see. It was one of the most thrilling finishes in college hockey history.

After 50 long years, Kyle's overtime goal gave the Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs their first ever men's hockey NCAA Championship. In his tenth year at the helm, Coach Scott Sandelin led a tenacious and skilled Bulldog team that dominated on the power play and got timely goaltending throughout the tournament.

I would be remiss if I didn't commend the Michigan Wolverines, who played fiercely and deserve congratulations for an excellent final game. I know everyone at the University of Minnesota-Duluth must still have smiles on their face after their victory, and I congratulate the players and coaches and the fans on a triumphant season.

I would also be remiss if I didn't say that last year the women's hockey team, the Bulldogs also, won the women's NCAA Division I hockey tournament. So kudos to the University of Minnesota-Duluth and the Bulldogs.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

Mr. PRYOR. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. PRYOR pertaining to the introduction of S. 792 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. PRYOR. I thank the Chair.

#### TAX FREEDOM DAY

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, last week in Chicago, we announced tax freedom day—the day that marks the time when Illinois residents have paid their Federal and State tax burdens. The Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan organi-

zation that determines tax freedom day, found that this year Americans will pay more on their tax burden than they do on food, shelter, and clothing combined. Tax freedom day falls on April 15 in Illinois and on April 12 nationwide.

Yet tax freedom day underestimates how heavy the government's burden is by only reflecting the size of the bills we actually pay to the government, not the spending we are pushing off on future generations in the form of higher deficits and debt. If we paid all of our bills to the government, the way it spends money, tax freedom day would not come until May 23.

With a government that consumes so much, it is fair to ask: Is the government spending as efficiently as possible on programs it is funding? Sadly, it is very clear that waste, fraud, and duplication still exist widely in the Federal Government.

To call attention to these issues, I introduced the "silver fleece award" in homage of Senator William Proxmire's "golden fleece," but this one is made of silver, not gold, because we are headed for more austere times. In the month of February, this award was voted by Facebook users on "waste book" and was given to a program awarding \$1 million to provide signs displaying poetry in zoos.

I rise today to announce the nominees for the month of March and to announce the winner. The second runner up was a grant related to the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, or ISTEA, and Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, or SAFETEA-LU, which was awarded \$150,000 to create special tunnels for salamanders to pass under a Vermont road. The first runner up was a video game, funded by the Federal Government, called "WolfQuest," which was developed using a National Science Foundation grant of \$609,160 to the Minnesota Zoo.

However, the March winner of the "silver fleece award," with a 63-percent vote, is a grant of \$460,000 funding a study on why people lie on text messages, instant messaging services, social networking Web sites, and other modern communication systems. Yes, we spent over \$460,000 of hard-earned taxpayer dollars to tell you why people lie when they are communicating electronically.

There are new nominees for the April "silver fleece award." This month's nominees were put forward by a leader on the issues of fighting pork and government waste in the House, Congressman JEFF FLAKE of Arizona. He nominated \$450,000 in grants from the State Department for art shows in Venice, Italy, \$130,276 in National Health Foundation funds to sponsor the creation and distribution of a cookbook, and \$328,835 spent on an Air Force photo op in New York City.

We invite your votes and your feedback on "wastebook on Facebook" to decide what next month's "silver fleece award" winner will be.

The sad thing in all of this is that the only current loser is the American people.

#### TRIBUTE TO BILL SAMUELS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, when most people think about Kentucky, three things usually spring to mind immediately: horses, college basketball, and bourbon. What few people realize, however, is that it is only in the past few decades that premium bourbon has had much of a presence outside Kentucky at all. Just 30 years ago, bourbon was one of the fastest-declining spirits in America. And yet today, the industry supports 10,000 jobs in Kentucky; more than 1.5 million people have visited the Kentucky Bourbon Trail in the last 5 years; and every distiller in the State is adding capacity. So bourbon's come a long way, and if you ask folks in Kentucky, most of the credit goes to one man, whose 35-year run at the helm of the world's most famous bourbon distillery comes to an end this week.

I am referring, of course, to Mr. Bill Samuels, Jr., the longtime president of Makers Mark. Bill's dad may have come up with the formula for premium bourbon, but it is because of Bill's vision and tenacity that the rest of the world knows about it today.

The first thing you could say about Bill Samuels is that rarely in the history of American commerce has there been a better marriage between a man and a product than the one between him and Makers Mark. To many Kentuckians, he is an instantly recognizable figure. You could say that what Colonel Sanders was to chicken, Bill is to bourbon. And so it is appropriate that the first job he ever had, at the age of 16, was driving the colonel around. You couldn't ask for a better teacher than Harlan Sanders if you wanted to learn how to promote a product, and, if that product was bourbon, you couldn't ask for a better hometown than Bardstown, KY. Bill's godfather and next-door neighbor was Jim Beam, and Bill can trace his family's tradition of bourbon making in Bardstown back seven generations to 1844.

A dramatic change in the family business came in 1953, when Bill's father, Bill Samuels, Sr., decided to abandon the old family recipe, bought the smallest distillery in the State, just outside of Loretto, and got to work on a more premium product. Bill, Sr. never really thought of the family business as much more than a hobby, so Bill, Jr. went off to college where he studied engineering and earned a law degree. But the family business retained a certain attraction, and soon the younger of the two Bills had to make a choice: practice law, or accept his father's offer to work with him for half the money. The other terms of employment weren't much better. Bill's dad told him that they did three things and three things only at the family's distillery: "We make whiskey, we